

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Phillip Articola on 10/23/08.

3. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer-readable medium embodying a computer program for execution by a~~ method for operating a signaling gateway that performs a signaling gateway process, ~~the computer program, when executed by one or more computers, causing the one or more computers to perform~~ method comprising the steps of:

determining, by the signaling gateway process executed by a computer, routing information ~~for enabling~~ that is to be provided to an application server process

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performed by an application server, to identify a signalling gateway process to which to direct signalling messages destined for a particular point code on a network; and

making the routing information available to the application server process; and

based on the routing information received, directing, by the application server process ~~performed by the application server~~ executed by a computer, the signaling messages for the particular point code based on the information, ~~wherein~~ and the routing information takes the form of a routing table that serves to distribute signalling gateway process identifiers over ~~possible~~ signalling link selector values included in signalling messages sent by the application server process performed by the application server.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer readable medium embodying a computer program for execution by an application server that performs~~ method for operating an application server that performs an application server process to sending signalling messages to a signalling network via a signalling gateway comprising a plurality of signalling gateway processes, the ~~computer program, when executed by one or more computers~~ the special purpose hardware, causing the one or more computers to perform method comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the signaling gateway process executed by a computer, routing information and signalling link selector (SLS) values contained in signalling messages; and

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identifying, by the application server process executed by a computer, a particular signalling gateway process to which to direct signalling messages destined for **[[a]]** the particular point code by reference to the routing information received from the signalling gateway process and the SLS values contained in the signalling messages; and

directing, by the application server process executed by a computer, the signaling messages for the particular destination point code based on routing information and the SLS values, ~~wherein~~ and the routing information takes the form of a routing table that serves to distribute signalling gateway process identifiers over ~~possible~~ signalling link selector values included in the signalling messages.

/Quynh H Nguyen/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2614